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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/885,597	06/30/97	TANG J	065020022

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S-B

ART UNIT 2772	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED: 02/04/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/885,597

Applicant(s)

John Tang

Examiner

Thomas Joseph

Group Art Unit

2772



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 30, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 6

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2772

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent claims.
2. The present title of the inventions is "Animated Indicators that Reflect Function, Activity, or State of Objects Data or Processes."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1 - 3, 5 - 9, 11 - 15, 17, 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baecker.

Claim 1 and 13 are rejected. Baecker discloses a sequence for generating frames where each frame contains information relating to the state of the container (col. 3, line 13 - 26).

Baecker does not use the word "cyclically displaying" in his teaching but does refer to an animation cycle (fig. 8; col. 8, line 38 - 50). It is obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art that not changing the contents of any icon might result in Baecker producing a cyclic display of frames. It is obvious to one with ordinary skill to display cyclically because user may want a second opportunity to see the content of a software container. Baecker teaches detecting a

Art Unit: 2772

change in the state of the container col 8, line 58 - 67; col. 9, line 1 - 6). Baecker teaches modifying a series of frames to reflect the detected changed state of the container (col 8, line 58 - 67; col. 9, line 1 - 6).

Baecker discloses computer system. Since a computer requires a program that can be read from a computer readable medium, it would be obvious to create such a program using a computer implemented medium.

Claim 2, 8, and 14 are rejected. Baecker teaches generating a series of animation frames such that the series of frames when displayed in the animated sequence represents information about a change in the state of the objects of the container (col 5, line 58-67; col 6, line 1 - 9).

Claim 3, 9, and 15 are rejected. The number of animations displayed in Baecker correspond with the number of different files that are readily accessible (fig. 2; col 5, line 30 - 47). The various depictions correspond to different types of objects fig. 2; col 5, line 30 - 47).

Claim 5 - 6, 11 - 12, and 17 - 18 are rejected. Baecker teaches including in the generating step variation in motion (col 2, line 32 - 51) and color (col 7, line 62 - 67; col. 8, line 1 - 14).

Claim 7 is rejected. Baecker discloses a computer system consisting of a display, RAM, display device, cursor control device, and a signal generation device which can be the mouse or keyboard button. Baecker also discloses a data storage device (fig 1). It is obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art that a data storage device is required for storing is an integral part of any current computing system and any computer program is stored in memory during execution. In claim 1 rejection, Baecker teaches the display of a series of frames cyclically in an animated

Art Unit: 2772

sequence such that the animated sequence represents information about the container state (fig. 8; col. 8, line 38 - 50).

5. Claims 4, 10, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baecker as applied to claim 1, 7, 13 above, and further in view of Little.

Claim 4, 10, and 16 are rejected. Little teaches embedding audio information inside icons (fig 3; col. 5, line 8 - 27). Little teaches associating icons with audio information. Baecker teaches representing visual information within software container using animated icons. It would be obvious to any one with ordinary skill in the art that audio can be embedded with animation.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Mano, Konishi, and Ando shows animation sequences of interest.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Joseph whose telephone number is (703) 305-2277. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Powell, can be reached on (703) 305-9703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-6606.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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